



Department of State Health Services
Laboratory Services Section
P.O. Box 149347
Austin, TX 78714-3194

Submit Zika Specimens Directly to DSHS Laboratory (not CDC)

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Fort Collins has requested that specimens for the detection of Zika virus by real time RT-PCR (rRT-PCR) be submitted to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Laboratory in Austin, TX.

Effective immediately, **do not** ship specimens for rRT-PCR directly to CDC. **All** specimens for Zika virus should first be submitted to the DSHS Laboratory or an approved Local Health Department Laboratory performing rRT-PCR in Texas. Specimens sent directly to CDC will be forwarded to the DSHS Laboratory resulting in further delay of testing.

For information regarding submission to the DSHS Laboratory, please see specimen collection protocol located at <http://www.texaszika.org/docs/DSHS-Chik-Den-Zika-Serology-and-PCR-specimens.pdf>. **Note:** Serum is required for this testing. Please contact your [Local Health Department](#) or DSHS Health Services Region prior to shipping to ensure patient meets criteria for testing.

For additional information related to the Zika virus, go to www.texaszika.org.